

WAS WEEKS WITH ALMEE SMITH?

Strong Evidence Against Her Father's Intimate Friend.

HAS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

Superintendent of the Sunday School Where the Girl Taught.

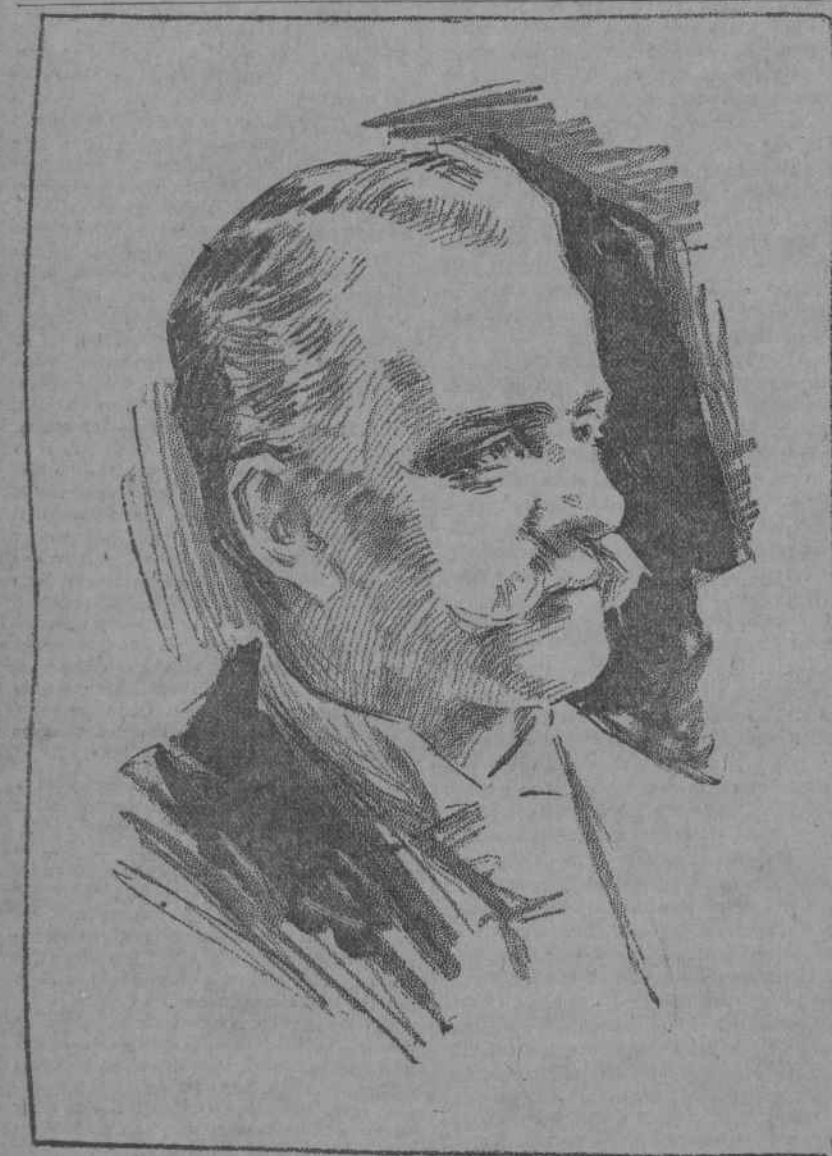
HE HAS NOW DISAPPEARED.

His Photograph Identified as That of the Mysterious "J. Everett."

LONG REGARDED WITH SUSPICION.

Left Home After Telling His Wife He Had Unexpectedly Been Called Away on Business, and Making the Same Excuse to His Employer.

The strongest evidence points directly to Nelson M. Weeks, of Hackensack, as the man who took pretty Almee Smith to the Hotel Victor, on Third Avenue, Monday morning, registered with her as "J. Everett."



Nelson M. Weeks.

This is the man of whom the police have evidence as registering at the Hotel Victor with Almee Smith on Monday morning as "J. Everett" and wife, Chicago, and who fled when the girl was taken ill.

and wife, Chicago, and deserted her when sudden illness prostrated her. Nelson M. Weeks is an intimate friend of Mahlon B. Smith, Almee's father. Weeks is fifty years old, is married and has three children. The Smith family lives next to the Asbury Methodist Church, on State street, Hackensack, and Weeks within two blocks. Both families attend the church.

Until a year ago Weeks was superintendent of the Sunday-school of the Asbury Church and Almee Smith was organist and taught the infant class in the school.

Weeks returned to his home at 6 o'clock on Monday evening. He seemed somewhat excited, and told his wife he must leave town at once on business. He told her he was going to Providence, and she inferred it was on behalf of the firm in this city with which he is connected. That was not so; the firm did not send him out of town.

Sutton Spencer, the negro porter at the Hotel Victor, positively identified a photograph of Nelson M. Weeks as that of the man who was with Almee Smith at the hotel.

Photograph a Recent One. The photograph was taken in Washington only three weeks ago; Mrs. Weeks gave it to the detectives. Dr. Lewis, who was one of the last to see "Everett" before he disappeared, saw the photograph.

"The picture is greatly like the man who took me to the Hotel Victor," said the doctor, "but of course I cannot swear positively he is the same."

The detectives told Mr. Smith the basis of their intense suspicions against Weeks. The father was overcome by grief, shame and horror. But his faith in his friend was as firm as Gibraltar's unshakable.

"It's impossible, impossible," cried Mr. Smith. "He could not be so treacherous. He could not betray my confidence!"

And Mrs. Weeks has implicit faith in her husband. She gave the photograph to the detectives.

"Take it!" she exclaimed, "take it! Nothing you can say, nothing you can do, can make me think my husband is the wretch you would have me believe."

To return: Mr. Weeks's employer in this city is L. P. Frink, who owns a rectorial manufactory at No. 551 Pearl street. Weeks is the superintendent of the Sunday-school of the firm. He said that Weeks was at the factory only a part of Monday, and when he left he said that he would have to leave the city for a few days. He did not say where he was going.

was not at any of the hotels there—at least under his own name. Neither could any of the hotel clerks recognize from the description of him any of the guests stopping at that place.

While the detectives had been persuaded for some time that Weeks was the man for whom they were searching, they were not sure of it until his photograph had been positively identified.

When they first called on Mrs. Weeks and asked her for a picture of her husband she denied having one. Then they went to Mr. Smith and told him their suspicions and the evidence which they had secured in support of them.

"Mr. Weeks is my most intimate friend," said the heart-broken father, "and I cannot believe that he has the slightest connection with this affair. It could not be he. You cannot make me believe that he is so treacherous. He was much in the company of my daughter, but it was with my full knowledge, and Almee was his daughter's closest friend."

But at last, in the hope of setting at rest all the rumors which have been afloat in Hackensack, Mr. Smith consented to write a note to Mrs. Weeks, in which he asked her to give the detectives a photograph of her husband. In the note Mr. Smith again expressed his earnest belief in the innocence of his friend.

Mrs. Weeks Broke Down. Mrs. Weeks broke down when she read the pitiful letter which was brought to her by E. L. Beckman, a cousin of Mr. Smith. She cried bitterly and thanked Mr. Beckman and told him to thank Mr. Smith for the photograph of her husband from her room.

As she handed it to Detective Play she turned her head away and went to the opposite end of the room as though, in spite of her repeated expressions of belief in her husband's innocence, she feared to witness the attempt to identify him as the man who had contributed to the death of Almee Smith.

Taking Sutton Spencer, the hotel porter, to the window, Detective Play told the negro to look at it, but if he recognized it to say that he did not. This was done for the purpose of saving Mrs. Weeks what suffering was possible. Spencer had no sooner seen the face than he plucked the detective and whined:

"That's the man; I'm sure of it. That's him and no mistake!"

He says he cannot identify the picture positively, said Detective Play to Mrs. Weeks, "but if you do not object I will take the picture with me."

Mrs. Weeks gave the desired permission willingly, and the detectives went away with the photograph. They at once returned to the hotel.

Then he turned away unable to bear the sight any longer. His tears had ceased and in their place a dull, strained expression had come into his eyes. He did not seem to realize where he was or what had happened. A friend who had come with him to the city took him by the arm and led him from the room. As he passed through the office of the Morgue he was asked what disposition he wished made of the body when the authorities should be through with it.

"I don't know," he answered, still speaking as if his mind were far away.

"I don't know," he answered, still speaking as if his mind were far away. "I have no plan. Some has always been in Hackensack, and I suppose I will take it there."

Half-supported by the arm of his friend Mr. Smith walked away from the building and was led from the hospital grounds. His bent form had hardly been lost to sight before the coroner's physician, Dr. Weston, had begun his thankless task. So soon as he had completed his work a death certificate was made out and signed. He was an undertaker, who took it to the young woman's former home.

The autopsy showed that the immediate cause of the young woman's death was congestion of the brain. What had caused this was not yet definitely known. Dr. Weston, the coroner's physician, Dr. Weston, who made the examination, says he is confident that poison had no part in it. He found that Miss Smith was suffering from heart trouble, and believes that when she was taken to the hospital the knowledge that her secret was being betrayed by the cards in her search for the police found her suffering.

Will Make an Analysis. Still, to settle the least doubt as to the cause of the congestion, the contents of the girl's stomach, as well as various other parts of her body were preserved and will be subjected to a chemical analysis. When this has been completed, the coroner's physician, Dr. Weston, will let the date for the inquest.

It was thought at first that Miss Smith, who had told her parents that she was going to Morristown, might have become acquainted with the man with whom she went to the hotel while she was at a millinery school at No. 1 West Fourteenth street, in this city. This school is managed by Mrs. H. E. Southard and is located at No. 247 West Eleventh street.

Mrs. Southard denied yesterday that Miss Smith had ever had any visitors while she was at the school. She said that a diligent and bright pupil, and while at the school had formed a great friendship for Miss Lydia McVey, whose home is in New York City. She was also a pupil of Mrs. Southard's.

After Miss Smith was graduated from the school on February 18, she married a man very anxious to form a partnership and open a millinery store in Morristown. She was on her way to that place to keep her promise when death overtook her in the hotel.

CLAMORING FOR OFFICE. Place Seekers and Their Backers Continue to Interview President McKinley.

Washington, March 9.—Senators Allison, Hawley, Elkins and Cullom were among the early callers at the White House. Major Wood, the newly appointed Senator from Kentucky, who has not yet been admitted to his seat, also dropped in. Clark E. Carr, of Galena, Ill., who has held office with brief intermissions ever since the day of Lincoln, and who wants to return to Denmark as Minister, and J. D. Elliott, candidate for District Attorney of South Dakota, saw the President.

Congressman Hitt, of Illinois, and Grosvenor, of Ohio, had little chats with the President. General Powell Clayton, of Arkansas, will probably be Minister to Mexico, had the President's ear for a while. Three men of prominence who knew they could expect no further favors from the Republican party, and who were disappointed in their hopes, were Senators Teller, of Colorado, Pettigrew, of South Dakota, and Cannon, of Utah, who bolted the St. Louis Convention after the adoption of the monetary plank of the platform.

Senator Hanna and Senator Foraker saw McKinley in the afternoon. They did not call together. Other Congressmen called and presented the names of constituents who desire to fill offices.

Mr. Hanna was one of the rumored applicants for a diplomatic position, who saw the President this morning.

Nearly a thousand people shook hands with the President at his private reception in the East Room this afternoon. Tonight several Senators had uninterrupted conversation with Mr. McKinley on the subject of patronage.

QUEEN LIL NO EXCEPTION. President McKinley Will See Her Just as Any Other Caller.

Washington, March 9.—President McKinley has signified his intention of receiving Liliuokalani, the former Queen of Hawaii, in response to her request for an audience, just as soon as the rush of visitors is over. The President does not intend to make a specific engagement at this time with any one excepting Senators and others with whom he wishes to consult.

The ex-Queen wants to see him now she must take her chance with everybody. Her reception by the President later on will be purely informal.

SUGAR TRUST GETS ITS REWARD.

Profit of \$4,000,000 Assured by the New Tariff.

RATE JUST TO ITS LIKING.

Ways and Means Committee Places Duty at 15-8 Cents a Pound.

SEARLESS'S PART IN THE SCHEME.

Treasurer and President Havemeyer Devoted Their Attentions to Senators Who Have Influence in the House.

Washington, March 9.—The Sugar Trust is again victorious. The sugar schedule of the new tariff as fixed by the Ways and Means Committee to-day carrying one and five-eighths cents per pound on all raw sugar, which means a clear profit of one-eighth of a cent on each pound for the trust.

A reciprocity paragraph permits of certain reductions running down to one and one-half cents with countries making satisfactory reciprocal conventions. A differential of one-eighth cent per pound is added on refined sugar. The present rate is forty per cent ad valorem. The committee expects that the new tax will raise over \$20,000,000 of revenue. It has not estimated the profit of the trust.

Trust Worked Quietly. The trust worked its scheme very smoothly. Its representatives remained away from the committee. None of them appeared before it or asked for a thing. They said they would be thankful for any small favors. The whole matter was left entirely with the committee, and the committee seems to have appreciated this modesty. But while the agents of the great trust did not appear before the committee they hovered about the city. They spend their time where they thought it would be most profitable.

Their being rewarded has been brought around in the most indirect way possible. Chairman Dingley is opposed to trusts. He was confronted, though, with the problem of raising sufficient revenue to meet the demands of a most extravagant Congress. A duty on sugar is one of the surest and quickest ways of doing it. He believed in a high duty. With a chairman believing this way it was not so hard a matter to get the figures as they were wanted. It all came at first in the shape of a compromise. The bounty and anti-bounty men split the difference.

Like Finding Money. President Havemeyer and Secretary Searles, of the trust, worked the scheme through from the Senate end. They worked in the Senate, and the Senate worked for them. Secretary Searles was particularly active, and always met the men who were known to be friendly to him and his confederates. These Senators have influence in the House. It was in this indirect way that the trust succeeded in its plans.

The result, then, after a week's discussion, is that the rate stands at one and five-eighths cents. It will enable the trust to make a \$4,000,000 bonus. It is just so much money found.

The McKinley bill put sugar on the free list. It might be supposed that the President would be of the same opinion concerning sugar that he was seven years ago, but he has learned a lesson since then. That bill sent him into private life, and again made him President. In the latter affair the Sugar Trust had a hand. It showed its interest to the extent of about \$500,000, so it is claimed.

The duty will not please the Louisiana members of Congress as much as it might. They wanted a bounty first, and then two cents a pound duty, but will not get either. One and five-eighths is better than nothing, though, and may bring them into line.

MISS BAKER DEFENDED. District Attorney Olcott Sees No Reason Why She Should Be Held Responsible for J. P. Kernochan's Death.

Miss Florence Baker will not be required to attend the inquest into the death of James P. Kernochan, unless her condition is materially improved by the time set for the hearing. This was settled yesterday by a letter written to the Coroner by District Attorney Olcott in reply to a request for an opinion.

"I told Coroner Dobbs," said Mr. Olcott, "that there was not a scintilla of evidence to show that Miss Baker was connected with a criminal offense because of the unfortunate accident. Certainly there is nothing to show that the running down of Kernochan was the result of criminal intent. I quoted section 73 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to the Coroner. That bears me out in my opinion. With the exception of her present prostrate condition it would be a display of unnecessary heartlessness to require her attendance."

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FIRST MEETING OF THE CABINET.

Secretaries Are Unanimous Against "Too Much Civil Service."

OPPOSE CLEVELAND'S LAW.

Want to at Least Be Allowed to Name Their Confidential Clerks.

MCKINLEY TO FILL PLACES.

The President Gives His Advisers to Understand That He Is the One Who Makes Appointments.

Washington, March 9.—President McKinley's Cabinet held its first meeting to-day. It did not remain in session long, but the time was ample for every member to make known his grievances and to learn that President McKinley will make his own appointments. The common grievance is the civil service. Every Cabinet official present was able to state in most distinct terms his disapproval of that part of the law which precludes the appointing of his confidential office force. While no action was taken, it is known that sooner or later some changes in Cleveland's extension orders will be attempted.

The sentiment to-day was in favor of civil service, but it was felt that President Cleveland went too far. The intention seems to be to remedy this evil as it is looked upon. The Cabinet will stand for civil service, but it wants a chance at the confidential force at least. It may want a few more "directive positions" placed in the category with the assistant secretaries. The Cabinet holds that the same reasons apply to certain other heads of departments as to assistant secretaries.

Mr. Bliss Absent. The Cabinet meeting was held at 11 o'clock, and all the members were present except Mr. Bliss, Secretary of the Interior. He is in New York arranging his personal affairs so that he can come to Washington. As the Secretaries arrived some minutes before the President could join them in the Cabinet room, they spent the time getting acquainted. Some had met only the week before, and scarcely knew each other by sight. They had many matters of minor importance to discuss, and put in the time very pleasantly until the entrance of the President.

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